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'Operation Spring Cleanup' unites Central Indiana public safety agencies for 24-hour mission

(Indianapolis, Indiana) More than 20 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies became one unified team for 24 hours on Tuesday, April 19th in an aggressive effort to combat narcotics and illegal weapons. Approximately 180 sworn officers and civilians worked on several different 'missions' during a 24-hour period of aggressive and proactive law enforcement focused on drugs and guns.

"The amount of cooperation and teamwork with this operation was unprecedented," said Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry. "It is just one of the first examples of the new spirit of cooperation in law enforcement that United States Attorney Joe Hogsett and I announced last month."

Operations that were conducted during the 24 hour period included a large arrest warrant sweep by members of the Marion County Sheriff's Department Warrant Team and U.S. Marshals Service; probation sweeps by members of Marion County probation and narcotics detectives; joint investigations with the U.S. Postal Inspection Services and other private shipping companies; traffic stops in Marion, Henry, Hancock, and Hamilton Counties focusing on the possible transport of illegal narcotics; and executing search warrants. In addition, deputy prosecutors from the narcotics and gun division were in the field with many of the different teams.

"The bad news for those involved in narcotics and illegal weapons is that we're all on the same page, we're sharing information, and dedicated to the highest penalties for the worst offenders," said Deputy Prosecutor and Metro Drug Task Force Director Rick Frank, the liaison coordinator of the operation. "Every level – federal, state, and local – of law enforcement in Central Indiana is unified in proactively finding and arresting those involved in narcotics – and particularly those who do it carrying weapons."

The idea for "Operation Spring Cleanup" was devised by IMPD Lt. Don Christ and DEA Special Agent Noel Gaertner after two ICE agents were recently killed near the Mexican border attempting to stop illegal narcotics from entering the United States. Christ said much of the violence in Indianapolis can be linked in some way to the sale of illegal narcotics.

"The violence in Marion County has to stop," said Marion County Sheriff John

Layton, who dedicated more than 80 active and reserve deputies to the operation. "This operation is just the beginning of what law enforcement in our area can accomplish when we all work together."

The results from "Operation Spring Cleanup" are:

Total arrests:	55
Traffic Stops:	136
Citations:	51

Search warrants:	21
Vehicle searches:	6
Consent searches:	8
Probation searches:	41

Seizures:

14 guns
\$21,637.00 cash
44.3 pounds marijuana
Approx 2,000 pills – not yet counted or identified
Approx 24 grams Cocaine
13 paraphernalia pipes
21 vehicles
3 computers
4 digital scales

According to Frank, the totals may have even been higher, but some of the missions within the operation had to be cancelled or ended early due to the bad weather conditions in central Indiana on Tuesday.

"IMPD is dedicated to whatever it takes to seek out people who choose to participate in criminal activity," said Director of Public Safety Dr. Frank Straub. "I commend and congratulate everyone involved in this operation." He indicated there could be similar operations in the future.

Agencies who participated in "Operation Spring Cleanup" include: Metro Drug Task Force, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Marion County Probation, Marion County Sheriff's Department, Indiana State Police, DEA, Immigration Customs Enforcement, U.S. Attorney's Office, ATF, U.S. Postal Inspection Services, U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General, Achilles, U.S. Marshal Service, Lawrence Police Department, Cumberland Police Department, Tipton Police Department, Hamilton/Boone Drug Task Force, Carmel Police Department, and the Kokomo Police Department.